shortage will be covered. We, as the Ministry, are also making some efforts so that iron ore may be made available to the new steel plants. Also, the Coal Ministry is taking steps to see that coal is made available. So efforts are there to cover up the gap.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, liberalisation and shift towards market economy would benefit the steel industry the maximum in my opinion if I have known a little of this industry. Sir, it is heartening to hear that there is going to be some liberalisation in the import of scrap. Otherwise, the mini-steel plants are absolutely in a very very bad shape.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has accepted it.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, I want to ask him whether or not he and his Ministry accept that the real malaise and maladministration in the entire steel industry is on account of the price control. Is the Ministry thinking of lifting the price control because the JPC's working and determining a price and at that price level, the public sector steel plants still making losses and Tatas making billions and billions of rupees, is just understandable—understandable in the sense that the productivity of one is very high and the productivity of the other is very low. But I am not on that question. Why not we get rid of the price control in the steel industry?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, I need your protection to answer this question. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has asked the whole question. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, the Minister is seeking protection from the Chair. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, the Steel Minister wants your protection from the former Steel Minister.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, if I answer in the affirmative, it will affect the market. If I answer in the negative, it will again affect the market. So, I need not answer all that I have heard. What I can say is that I will take his views into consideration in due course of time.

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Sir, the industrialists in our country are facing great shortage of pig-iron. Either they are starving or they are compelled to buy pig-iron in the black market. Will the Minister consider setting-up steel plants just to produce pig iron or to allow them to import pig-iron for their own consumption?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, import of pig-iron is allowed. Apart from that, according to our Industrial Policy, in 1986, pig-iron industry delicensing was done and there are certain pig-iron factories that are coming up. One of them will be coming up in Goa. I think on the 1st January, they are starting it. It is a fact that pig-iron shortage is there but we are happy that during this quarter, our production has gone up by 50,000 tonnes. We are aware of this difficulty and one of the items about which the Finance Ministry is also aware, is the import of pig-iron. That is already there. But relaxation in the import duty will also be coming, as I said, very soon.

सतलुज यमुना सम्पर्क नहर का कार्य पूरा किया जाना

*26. श्री रणजीत सिंह :
डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :

क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने पंजाब में सतलुज-यमुना सम्पर्क

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री रणजीत सिंह द्वारा पूछा गया ।

नहर का निर्माण कार्य पूरा करने के लिए 20 करोड़ रुपए की राशि आबंटित की है ;

(ख) क्या उपरोक्त राशि कार्य पूरा करने के लिए पर्याप्त है ; और

(ग) यदि नहीं तो, इस परियोजना को पूरा करने के लिए कितनी अतिरिक्त धनराशि और समय की आवश्यकता है ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) An expenditure of about Rs. 20 crores is being incurred by the Government of Punjab on the project during 1991-92 pending reimbursement by the Government of India at the end of financial year 1991-92.

(b) and (c) The latest approved cost of the project at 1990 price level is Rs. 490 crores and the expenditure till March 1991 was Rs. 455 crores. The time schedule required to complete the project will depend on the nature and capacity of the new agency|agencies as and when engaged by the Government of Punjab and the additional amount of money required would mainly depend on the cost escalation.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Sir, as per the hon. Minister's answer, an expenditure of Rs. 20 crores is being incurred by the Government of Punjab on the project during 1991-92. As per my information, the Punjab Irrigation Department has declined to complete the project and after the gunning down of M. N. Sikri, the then Chief Engineer by the militants, the Government has ordered to transfer about 800 workers from the SYL Canal to the Thein Dam. Arrangement are also made to absorb about 1,000 other workers in the other departments. The post of the Chief Engineer, SYL Canal has been lying vacant for a long time. And no officer is prepared to take up the job. So, I would like to know where the amount will be spent and which agencies will be asked to take up the project.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, this project has certainly run into difficulties. The work on the project has been stopped, as the hon. Member has stated, and there are several reasons which are well known to the House. We have been anxious about the work-charged staff and as the hon. Member has said, we have shifted some of them to the Thein Dam and another 850 are being shifted to other projects that are going on in the vicinity. We have not yet decided as to which agency will take up the work. We are consulting the Government of Punjab and the Government of Punjab have to give their final view in this matter. As soon as we have their views, we will take a decision on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do it expeditiously because the SYL project is hanging for a long time.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, actually this is a problem which has been created because of the political situation in the area and, therefore, the views of the Government of Punjab are sought and the Government of India's policies on agricul- whom this entire project has to be constructed.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has replied, "We are taking up the matter with the Punjab Government and still they have not decided." I am having a copy of the statement which the Chief Minister of Haryana has made and I read it out for your information:—

> "The Centre has agreed to hand over the construction of the SYL Canal in Punjab to the Border Road Organisation.

Presiding over the State-level war heroes and martyrs' day function here today, the Haryana Chief Minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal, asserted that the canal would be completed within a year. He ridiculed reports in a section of the press that the Union Home Ministry had not cleared the deployment of the BRO for this purpose."

The Chief Minister said that he had held a series of meetings with the Prime Minister to persuade the Centre to take up the responsibility of completing the SYL project which, he described as a national project. The Chief Minister had made this statement 40 days back. This is the latest information. He had consulted the Prime Minister so many times. The Haryana Irrigation Department and the Cabinet have already passed it. I am sorry, the Minister is not having this information. So, will he clarify the position?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, we have this information and what I said was not the views of the Central Government or the Haryana Government. I only stated the views of the Punjab Government. They have not yet been able to make a statement. They are the agency which has to make this project and they have not been able to make a final decision as to which agency should take up this work. The Punjab Irrigation Department is unable to do this work. Some new agency has to be deployed. We have had exchange of views with them and with the Haryana Government. The Haryana Government have certain views, the Central Government have certain views, but the agency which is to complete this project has to make up its mind on this and until it makes up its mind, we cannot start work on this canal.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What he said was the Haryana Government has said that the Central Government has agreed to take it up itself.... (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, in this particular matter the executing agency is the Punjab Government. The Government of India is not the executing agency nor is the Government of Haryana. And, therefore, unless the Punjab Government agrees to various suggestions that have been made, we cannot take up this work in accordance with either our wishes or the wishes of the Haryana Government.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH: If the Chairman permits, I can read out the suggestion...

MR. CHAIRMAN: आप का सवाल तो हो गया। Now Mr. Jain will ask his question.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir, the Haryana part of the SYL canal was completed in 1970 and the successive Punjab Governments had not shown any interest in the completion of the work, i.e., the Punjab part of the SYL canal. I wish to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Central Government is taking to reverse the steps which have been taken by the Punjab Government to redeploy the workers. The Chief Engineer was gunned down and the migrant labour that was brought was also killed by the militants. So, the militants are ruling Punjab. I want to know, in the developmental sector like completion of the SYL canal, which will bring water to a large number of areas of Haryana, what the Central Government is doing. We know that the Punjab Government is not interested in completing this work. But, what are you doing, Sir? I wish to know that.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, it is not a fact to say that the Punjab government has not been taking much interest in this work. They had been executing this work properly until 1990 when the Chief Engineer was killed. After that no Chief Engineer has been found who could take up the work and nobody

[Dr. Jinendra Kumar Jain]

agreed to do that. Therefore, the work has come to a standstill. We have considered various alternatives. As I said, this work lies in the territory of the Punjab Government and the Punjab Government has to make a decision on this. We have made certain suggestions to them and they are under consideration. (*Interruptions*)....

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : इससे पता चलता है कि इन्होंने बजट के अन्दर कैनाल के लिए कोई प्रोविजन नहीं रखा है ।

There is no provision in your budget for the construction of the canal .This shows how casually you are taking this.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, we are not taking it casually. This is a highly surcharged question and. therefore, we are handling it with all the care. We are hoping that as soon as the elections in Punjab are held this question will be resolved amicably.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Sir. even today there is a Punjab Government as it is under Central rule. The Central Ministers are also Ministers for Punjab for the last five years. We have been sanctioning extension of President's rule in this House repeatedly. Sir, the Central Minister cannot say... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has followed. Everybody has followed what you are saying.

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: He has followed, but I have not followed. He is trying to evade this and he should not do that. He must accept the responsibility. After all it is an inter-State dispute.

श्री सभापति : ये तो आरगुमेंट्स शुरू हो गये । आपका सवाल सीधा है, चूंकि वहां पर सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट का रूल है, इसलिए मंत्री जी की जिम्मेदारी है । यहां पर बात खत्म हो गई । आप आगे सवाल पूछ लीजिये, झगड़ा खत्म हो गया ।

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: My question is: What are the steps the Central Government is taking to reverse the decision which is being taken by the Punjab Government? The Punjab Government is not doing it. Therefore, does the Central Government have a responsibility or not? If the Central Government has the responsibility, I wish to know only one thing. What are you doing to discharge that responsibility?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, we are doing everything in the circumstances to discharge our responsibility and we have to take into account the existing situation on the ground before we can take a decision which is practical and which can be executed. Therefore, I can assure the House that we are not neglecting this issue at all and we are fully seized of the matter and we would like to complete this canal as soon as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hanspal.

श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह : चेयरमैन साहब, टाइम तो बता दें कि कब तक पंजाब गवर्नमेंट इस बारे में फैसला कर लेगी ?

श्री सभापति : आप सप्लीमेंटरी के लिये हाथ उठाते, तो आप भी सवाल पूछ लेते ।

श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह : मैं तो काफी देर से हाथ उठा रहा था, आप देख ही नहीं रहे थे ।

श्री सभापति : मैं खासतौर पर पीछे की तरफ, आपकी तरफ, देख रहा था । आप हाथ ही न उठायें, तो मैं क्या करूं ।

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : चैयरमैन साहब, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में

कहा है कि यह टोटल 499 करोड़ की प्रोजेक्ट थी और उसके ऊपर 456 करोड़ रुपये आलरेडी स्पेण्ड हो चुके हैं इस हिसाब से 93-94 per cent has already been spent on the project.

मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या प्रोजेक्ट भी इतने परसेन्ट कम्पलीट हो चुकी है ? अगर इतनी पूरी हो चुकी है तो क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि जैसे पंजाब में पहले सिचुएशन थी, वहां पर पैरा-मिलिटरी फोर्सेस थीं, लेकिन अब आर्मी भेज दी गयी है, ऐसी हालत में अभी थोड़ा 5–7 परसेंट काम बाकी रह गया है, वह इस पीरियड में पूरा कर लिया जाये ?

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : सभापति जी, करीब 10 प्रतिशत काम अभी बाकी रह गया है और उसको पूरा करने के लिये हम लोग प्रयास कर रहे हैं। जैसा मैंने कहा है, अभी तक जो पंजाब के अधिकारीगण हैं, वहां के जो राज्यपाल हैं, उनके सलाहकार हैं, उनकी तरफ से जो भी सुझाव आये हैं, वे सुझाव ऐसे हैं कि जिनके आधार पर अभी इस काम को शुरू नहीं किया जा सकता है और इसलिये हम लोग उनके साथ विचारविमर्श कर रहे हैं। जैसे ही कुछ तय होता है हम काम शुरू कर देंगे।

श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह : सभापति जी, सरदार हंसपाल जी ने, लाठर जी ने और चौधरी रणजीत सिंह जी ने भी कई बार मंत्री जी से यह जानने की कोशिश की है कि चूंकि पंजाब में इस वक्त केन्द्रीय शासन है, तो क्या वे पंजाब गवर्नमेंट से कोई कमिटमेंट लेंगे कि किस वक्त तक, एक साल में, छः महीने में, यह बाकी का जो 10 परसेंट काम बचा है, वह पूरा कर लिया जायेगा ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Expansion of telecom network in the country

*21. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the Telecom network in order to provide telecommunications to the rural areas and also to provide a telephone to each Panchayat and along all the national highways at every 50 kilometers or so in the country; and

(b) if so, by when the target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to make telephones available practically on demand in the rural areas by the end of 8th Plan. All the Village Panchayats are planned to be covered with telephone facilities progressively by 31st March, 1995. It is proposed to cover most of the national highways by the end of 8th Plan.

National Seminar on Housing

*24. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national Seminar on housing was held in New Delhi on the 29th September 1991;

(b) if so. whether any drawbacks in the existing housing policy and the law governing the housing development were highlighted in the Seminar; and